A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 6. 1708.

I Am now by the Order of my Deſign, and in the Courſe of theſe Papers, to ſhew you, whether the Diſſenters *in* Scotland *have inſulted the Church or no, whether the legally called Miniſters have obtain'd legal Admiſſion or no, and whether the Church has been rabbled in theſe Caſes of Intruſion or no.*

And becauſe I will ſay nothing here but by unanſwerable Authorities, I give you the Complaint of the Presbytery of Roſs, *as it was given in to the QUEEN, and made publick again in her Majeſty's Name, and by her Royal Authority ——— When the Gentlemen we are talking to pleaſe to diſpute this Authority, we ſhall ſeek for ſome better; for as I reſolve to ſearch this Affair to the Bottom, and to fortifie it againſt all Manner of Cavil, I am reſolv'd alſo to bring you ſuch Authorities, as no Body ſhall be able to defeat ——— And when this ſad Story is finiſhed, I have more without Number to follow.*

ANNE, By the Grace of God, Queen of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, To Macers of our Privy Council, Meſſengers at Arms, our Sheriffs in that Part, Conjunctly and Severally, Specially conſtitute, Greeting. *Foraſmuch* as it is humbly meaned and ſhown to us by our Lovit *John Blair*, Agent to the Kirk, and Sir *James Stuart* our Advocate, and by ſpecial Order of Privy-Council for our Intereſt. *That* whereby the fifth Act of the Parliament 1690, Entitled Act, Ratifying the Confeſſion of Faith,

Faith, and ſettling *Presbyterian* Church Government; The *Presbyterian* Church Government and Diſcipline are ratified and confirm'd to be the only Government of Chriſt's Church within this Kingdon, which is alſo thereafter ſeveral times ratified, and particularly by the ſecond Act of the Parliament 1703. Whereby in the Caſe of Vacancy of any particular Paroch within the Bounds of any Presbytery, the Care and Cure of the ſaid Paroch doth devolve upon the Presbytery for the ſupplying and planting thereof. In conſequence whereof the Lords of our Privy-Council have ordain'd ſuch vacant Churches to be patent, and the Keys thereof to be deliver'd to the ſaid Presbytery. *Like as* by the Act of Parliament 1698, Entitled Act for preventing Diſorders in the ſupplying and planting vacant Churches, for remedying the Godleſs Abuſe of Rabbling, that ſo frequently happens in Oppoſition to Miniſters, orderly ſent to ſupply vacant Churches, all Perſons are ſtrictly prohibit and diſcharg'd to make any Oppoſition by Rabble and Tumult, or any other Manner of Violence to any Miniſters, lawfully authoriz'd, and ſent to ſupply the ſaid Vacancy; and that under the Pain of one hundred Pound upon every Heritor or Life-Renter, and of fifty Marks upon any other unlanded Perſon, *toties quoties*, and that ſuch as are not able to pay, that they be puniſh'd in their Perſons, as the Lords of Privy-Council ſhall ſee Cauſe. *Like as* for the better repreſſing of the ſaid Rabling and Violence, the ſeventh Act of the Parliament 1693, Entitled Act anent invading of Miniſters, is ratified and thereto extended, with the Alterations contained in the ſaid Act 1698. *Like as* by the ſame Act, the Proclamation of Council made in the Year 1690, for the delivering the Keys of the vacant Churches to the Presbyteries, or their Order, is alſo ratified, and full Proviſion made for the better Execution thereof. *And farder* by the Act of Parliament 1687, Entitled Act for Puniſhment of Troublers of the Kirk, and Invaders of Miniſters, It is ſtatute, that whoſoever ſhall perturb the Order of the Kirk in Time of Divine Service, or make any Tumult, raiſe any Fray, either in the Kirk or Kirk-Yard, where-thro' the People convened ſhall happen to be diſorder'd, troubled or diſpers'd, the Perſons convict thereof ſhall tyne all their moveable Goods as Eſcheat, but Prejudice of greater Puniſhments, if there happen any greater Offence. *And farder*, that whatſoever Perſon or Perſons invades any Miniſter, or puts any violent Hands on him for any forged Quarrel, ſhall be puniſh'd therefor with all Rigour, and ſhall incur the Tinſel and Eſcheat of all their Moveables. *Like as* by ſeveral Acts of Parliament the Prophanation of the Lord's-Day is moſt ſtrictly prohibit under the Pains therein mentioned. *Nevertheleſs*, It is of Verity, that the Perſons after-named are guilty of tranſgreſſing the foreſaid Laws and Acts of Parliament in manner after mentioned, in ſo far as that Mr. *John Macra* late Incumbent at *Dingwall* having deceas'd, and the Kirk and Paroch thereof becoming thereby vacant, the United Presbytery of *Roſs* and *Sutherland* having met in *January* laſt, did appoint Maſter *William Stuart* Miniſter of *Killearne*, the next adjacent Paroch to *Dingwall*, and one of their own Number, to ſupply the ſaid Vacancy the next Lord's-Day. Whereupon the ſaid Mr. *William* did on *Saturday* the 15*th* of the ſaid Month ſend a Letter to the Magiſtrates of *Dingwall*, ſignifying to them the ſaid Appointment. To which Anſwer was return'd by *John Dingwall* late Baily, and one of the Council of the ſaid Burgh, That Mr. *William* ſhould be as welcome as any of that Sort of Miniſters; and the next Day being the Lord's-Day, Mr. *Stuart* came to the ſaid *John Dingwall*'s, having none with him but a Servant, where, as he thought, he was weell receiv'd, and directed by the Miſtreſs of the Houſe to an outer Chamber; but perceiving a Rabble of Women and Others about the Church ſome Hours before the ordinary Time of Worſhip, he call'd for his Landlord, but he could not be hid, which mov'd Mr. *Stuart* to ſend *Alex. Munro* of *Killichian*, one of his own Parochiners (who had followed him to hear Sermon) to the Magiſtrates to tell them, that if they had any Regard to God, to him, or themſelves, they ſhould come and ſpeak with him, and compeſce the Tumult, but none of them were

were to be found. Thereafter a Multitude of Women, amongſt whom were *Barbara Bayne*, Spouſe to *George Mackenzie* late Baily of *Dingwall*; *Margaret Kemp*, Spouſe to *John Dingwall*, late Baily there, and Miſtreſs of the Houſe where Mr. *Stuart* was lodg'd; *Iſabel Dingwall*, Spouſe to *Colline Matheſon* Town-Theſaurer there; *Janet* and *Iſabel Dingwalls*, Daughters to the Deceas'd *Donald Dingwall*, ſometime Baily there, being Ring-leaders of the Rabble, came with Battons, and Stones, and Clods, and ſurrounding the Miniſters Chamber, made his outer Door faſt with Nails; and when Mr. *Stuart* challeng'd them for ſo faſtening his Door, he was anſwer'd with reviling Language, and going to a Window to ſpeak to the Multitude, if poſſibly he could appeaſe them, he was met with a Shower of Clods and Stones. Which Rabble and Fray was rais'd that Morning principally by one *Murdoch Mackenzie vic urrchie*, Nephew to *Donald Dingwall* ſheriff-Officer, who came early to *Dingwall*, and warned all the Women in and about it to rendezvouſe at the Bridge-End of *Dingwall*, to oppoſe the *Whigs*, as he ſaid, and that he was order'd to do ſo under the Pain of being fin'd. Maſter *Stuart* the Miniſter being in this Plight, and hearing that Sir *Robert Munro* of *Fowlis*, a Juſtice of Peace, and ſome others out of his own Paroch of *Killterne*, were come to hear Sermon, he cry'd, and requir'd the ſaid Sir *Robert* to make Acceſs to the Church in the moſt peaceable Manner, that the People that were come to hear might enter, and that thereafter he ſhould come and relieve him; Sir *Robert* was oppos'd by the ſaid Rabble, mal-treating and beating his Servants; eſpecially at their entring the Church-yard, five ſeveral Men and Women conven'd therefor in another Libel, and notwithſtanding that Sir *Robert* requir'd them in her Majeſty's Name not to interrupt Acceſs to the Kirk. But there was no Acceſs given, until Sir *Robert* order'd ſome Perſons to go in at a Window, which had neither Glaſs nor Stanchel, and remove the Barricadoe from behind one Door of the Church, the other Door being ſo ſtrongly bolted and faſtened with Nails, that it could not be moved: After this, Sir *Robert* going to relieve Mr. *Stuart* the Miniſter, as he brought him from the Houſe to the Kirk, they were purſued by the Rabble, eſpecially by the foreſaid *Margaret Kemp*, and *Janet* and *Iſabel Dingwalls*, caſting Stones, Clods and Dirt at them; and when the Worſhip was begun and almoſt finiſh'd, ſuch was the Miſchief of the Rabblers, that they had gathered a Company of armed Men from the Country about, amongſt whom were as chief Ring-leaders, *John Macra vig aliſtir oig*, *Hugh Macra*, Brother to the ſaid Deceas'd Mr. *John Macra*, late Incumbent at *Dingwall*, *Kenneth Macra* Brother German to *Ferqhuard Macra* of *Inverienatt* .. *Macra*, Son to *Chriſtopher Macra*, Brother German to the ſaid Deceas'd Mr. *John Macra*, all Four in the Paroch of *Kintaill*, and *Murdoc Mac Gillichallim* in *Achonnochie* in the Paroch of *Urray*, Who coming with their Complices with Staves, Furks and Kebbers, ſo allarm'd the People in the Kirk, and at Worſhip, that they were all diſturb'd and frighted out of the Church, except the Miniſter and a few with him; and then the Perſons above-named ſeeking to enter, upon Pretence that they were coming to attend the Worſhip; ſo ſoon as enter'd, having only ſhort Coats, and Arms in their Hands, the ſaid *John Macra vic aliſter* came up to the Door of the Pulpit, and preſented a Piſtol to the Miniſter, threatning to kill him, until ſtopt by ſome of the Hearers. Whereupon the reſt of the armed Men approached nearer, and ſcrambling over the Seats to get to the Pulpit, with menacing Countenances, and Arms in their Hands, they commanded Mr. *Stuart* to come down and begon, which conſtrain'd him to retire, while ſome of his Hearers put a Stop to their Fury; after which, as the Miniſter was withdrawing through the Church-yard, a Company of his Hearers incloſed him for his Preſervation, that they might go off in Peace.

The Remainder of this will follow in our next.

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